



DCFS Latino Advisory Council

April 15, 2020

8:30am – 1:00pm

WebEx

Chair-Person:

Nancy Rodriguez

Past Chair-Person:

Juanita Calderon

Chair-Elect:

Julia Monzon

Scribe:

Maria Hernandez

DCFS Members:

**Vanessa Castro
Jose Garcia
Sydney Juarez
Evelyn Martinez
Azalea Mejia
Taylor Pierson
Beatriz Ramirez
Liliana Romero**

POS Members:

**Patricia Aguilar
Jennifer Contreras
Lisa Marie Perez
Daizy Salgado**

Ex-officio Members:

Jose J. Lopez, OLS

Director's Liaison:

**Daniel Fitzgerald
Affirmative Action**

Committees:

**Child Safety and
Permanency**

**Community Risk
Reduction and
Staffing**

**Data validity and
Disproportionality**

**Strategic
Communications**

**Latino Family
Institute**

**Professional Development
Day**

POS (Ad Hoc)

AMENDED MINUTES

Present: Nancy Rodriguez; Julia Monzon; Coty Corcoles; Evelyn Martinez; Jose Lopez; Vanessa Castro; Jennifer Contreras; Juanita Calderon; Jose Garcia; Beatriz Ramirez; Daizy Salgado; Daniel Fitzgerald; Sydney Juarez

Excused: Maria Hernandez; Azalea Mejia; Taylor Pierson; Liliana Romero; Patricia Aguilar; Lisa M. Perez

Guests: Yeni Rojas; Cynthia Valentin; Juan Vasquez

A. Welcome

Nancy welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. February and March Minutes

February minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.
March minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

C. Committee Reports

Written reports had been requested.

- a. Child Safety & Permanency – Coty Corcoles
 - Coty reported on foster-home data in Cook County and Downstate. The committee will obtain data on hotline calls.
 - It was reported that there is missing data for POS. Jose Lopez stated that he is working on putting that data together the data is available by county but not yet by zip codes.
- b. Community Risk Reduction & Staffing – Jose Garcia
 - It was reported that the survey developed will be distributed as scheduled. Data has been requested for DCP, Intact, and Placement vacancies. Jose Lopez stated that he will ask Daniel about the vacancies data.
 - Evelyn stated that bilingual placement workers are needed in Woodstock. She has provided the information to Daniel Fitzgerald and Lourdes Rodriguez. Jose Lopez reported that he will inquire.
- c. Data Validity & Disproportionality – Nancy Rodriguez
 - It was discussed that the Bylaws mentions Ex-Officio duties but that there is no documentation. The DCFS Director can identify and provide the Ex-Officio duties.

- The DVD committee expressed concerns over not receiving requested documents from Ex-Officios like we did in the past prior to 2019. It was discussed that specific reports needed to be requested.

d. Strategic Communications – Julia Monzon

- Tabled.

e. POS– Jose J. Lopez

- The committee anticipates having the Professional Day event at Loyola University in August.

D. Affirmative Action Reports – Jose Lopez reported.

- It was reported that Lourdes Rodriguez and Jose Lopez made phone calls to foster-parents in relations to the COVID outbreak and placements of children. There are currently no in person recruitment events. Some recruitment information is posted on social media.

E. Old Business - None Reported

F. New Business

a. Open Forum

- Jennifer requested waiver of 3 consecutive meetings for new nominee, Cynthia Valentin. It was determined that it will be put on the agenda in next meeting held for voting.
- Daniel stated that there is a need to know what is going on with the front-line workers, children, and families. Lourdes Rodriguez and Jose Lopez secured 50 placements to be used in the event there are emergency placements during the pandemic.
- Cynthia stated that at Association House, 4 rolls of paper towels and 2 boxes of sanitary gloves were received. No masks were received. Daniel reported that DCFS continues to receive more supplies. Evelyn reported that Glen Ellyn office does not have enough PPE supplies. Coty, Evelyn, Beatriz and Jennifer volunteered to make phone calls to Supervisors to inquire of PPE supplies receipt.
- Sydnie reported that there has been no release of information on how many children in DCFS custody nor how many staff are positive for COVID-19.

G. Adjournment

- Julia motioned to end the meeting, Juanita second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.
- The next LAC meeting will take place via WebEx on 5-20-20.

Scribe: Nancy Rodriguez